

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5 FEBRUARY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cyprus

a. Though the British are still clinging to the hope that Makarios has kept the door open on the joint US-UK plan for Cyprus, we are inclined to think otherwise.

b. Ambassador Wilkins has noted that the Greek Cypriots have come to believe, in spite of all that has been said by the US, that our proposal will lead to a NATO supervised partition of Cyprus.

c. Thus whatever Makarios' own views on the matter might be, he is probably not in a position to go against the will of the majority of his supporters egged on by the Communists.

d. There is now a very real danger, that the island will explode into more violence before the cumbersome UN machinery can grind out its own peacekeeping force.

e. If this happens, then the Turks and Greeks will be led inexorably into intervention in full knowledge of the catastrophic consequences.

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g. The evacuation of American dependents has begun following yesterday's bombing incidents.

h. There are reports this morning that several American automobiles have been set on fire.

2. South Vietnam

a. Viet Cong activity is again on the upswing.

b. Their tactics suggest greater self-confidence. In the past few weeks, they have stepped up the number of ambushes of regular army units, cut numerous telephone and electric power lines, and shelled or raided sections close to provincial and district capitals.

c. In government-held areas of the central and northern coast, they have also entered a number of strategic hamlets, terrorized inhabitants and kidnapped hamlet officials.

(Cont'd)

d. The Communists have apparently not yet begun to exploit dislocations or confusions resulting from the latest government change-over but they are expected to do so.

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f. Khanh has also again pressed Ambassador Lodge to recommend members of his cabinet.

3. USSR-Cuba

a. The Soviets have established an "Astrophysics Center" in Havana for tracking space vehicles.

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c. The type of tracking involved is not known. If it is electronic, it would substantially assist Soviet space operations. An optical tracking capability, although not as crucial to Soviet needs, would still be useful.

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4. Ghana

a. Nkrumah still seems to be in the saddle.

b. His regime staged an anti-American demonstration outside our embassy in Accra yesterday, which is probably the forerunner of new action against Americans.

c. Our embassy thinks there is a good possibility that the Army Chief, General Ankrah, could bring off a coup against Nkrumah, but it has no information that he is planning to do so.

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6. USSR - US wheat

a. The Russians say the 1.7 million tons of US wheat contracted for so far are all they will be buying.

b. The contracts are for cash, but the USSR has changed its mind about short-term credit and may try for Export-Import Bank financing.

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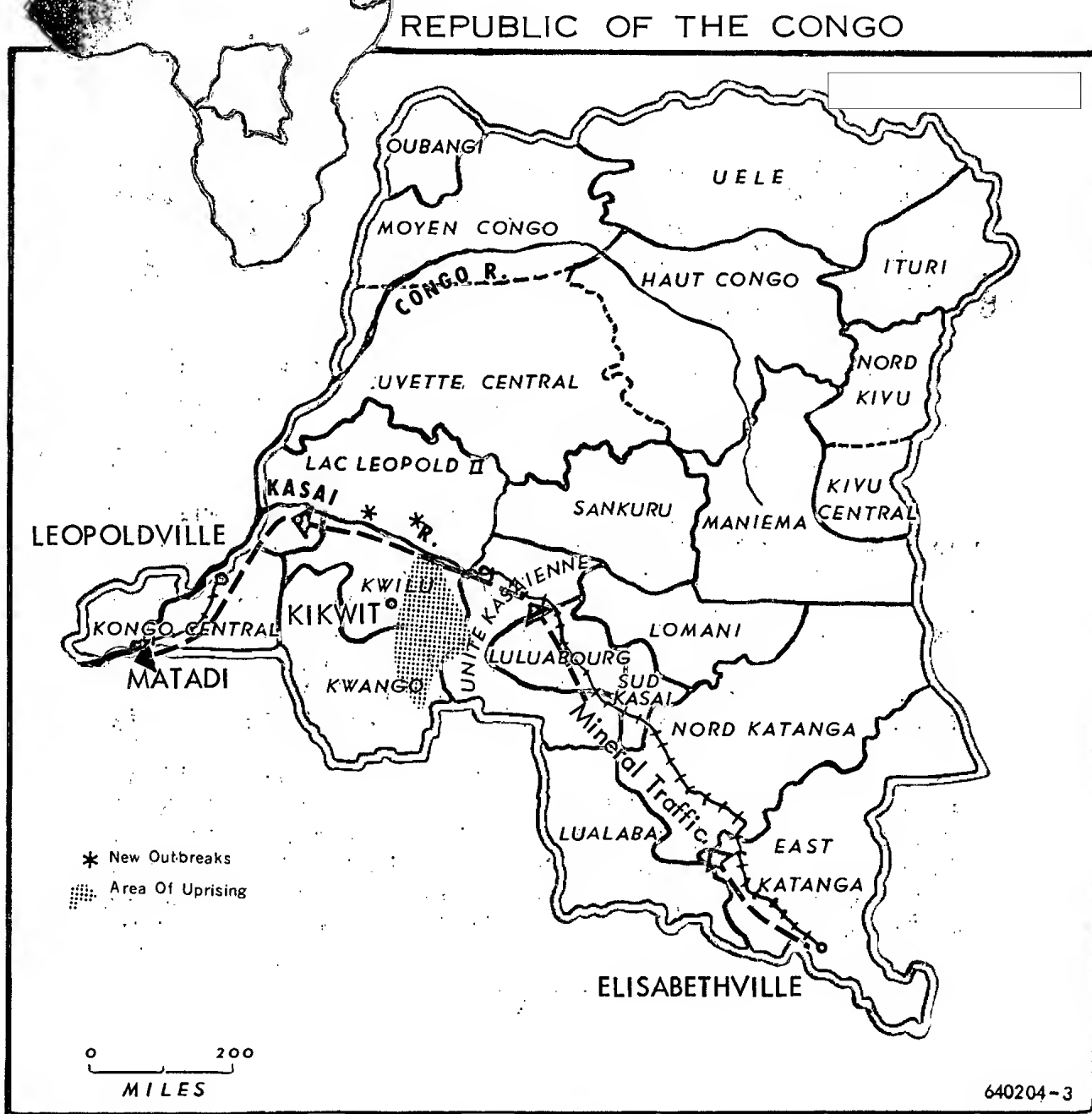
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7. Ceylon

a. The Bandaranaike government is threatened by the deteriorating economic situation.

b. Foreign exchange reserves are reported to have dwindled to less than a month's requirement--an all time low. Urban unemployment continues to rise.

c. Opposition parties are increasing their efforts to bring down the government.



NOTES

- A. Congo The uprising in Kwilu Province continues to grow and has interrupted mineral traffic from Katananga. [redacted] an outbreak of dissidence in Lac Leopold II Province north of Kwilu. Congo Army reinforcements have arrived in the main area of the uprising.
- B. Syria Factionalism within the Syrian Baath Party is endangering Baath control of the government. Former Premier Bitar, a long-time party leader, has been ousted from the party for indiscipline and a move appears to be under way to remove party founder Aflaq. A similar situation prevailed in Iraq last November when the Baath split into warring factions and the army took over.
- C. Berlin There has been unusual Soviet activity in the Berlin air corridors in the last few days, but we are not yet ready to conclude that this represents another pattern of deliberate Soviet harassment.
- D. Zanzibar Babu has authorized the return to Zanzibar of two NASA officials to look after the tracking station, pending a decision on its future. The station itself has been untouched, though a number of houses of NASA and MERCURY personnel were looted to some extent.

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- F. The Balkans The winter wheat harvest in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Yugoslavia may be reduced this year because of a drought during the fall planting season and a subsequent lack of adequate snow cover. These countries have planned large increases in agricultural production for 1964. Any setback to these plans may necessitate more purchases of Western wheat.
- G. Spain - Soviet Bloc Spain may soon establish relations with Czechoslovakia. This could be the prelude to improved trade and closer diplomatic ties with the Soviet bloc.